

REMARKS

Claims 2-14 and 18-19 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 15-17 have been cancelled. The amendments to certain claims contained herein are of substantially equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein. Claims 4, 9-11, 18 and 19 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and have been amended to incorporate the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The remaining claims in the application have been amended to depend from these claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Spindler. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from claims indicated by the Examiner as having allowable subject matter. The rejections of these claims should therefore be considered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spindler in view of Cannera et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 15-17 have been cancelled, and claims 3 and 13 have been

amended to depend from claims indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. The rejections of these claims should therefore be considered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spindler in view of Feng. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 4, indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. The rejections of claim 6 should therefore be considered moot. Withdrawal of the rejection, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claim is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 4, 9-11 and 18-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Furthermore, claims 2, 3, 5-8, and 12-14 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly from claim 4. Therefore, claims 2-14 and 18-19 should now be in condition for allowance.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office

Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 944-6522.

Respectfully submitted,

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